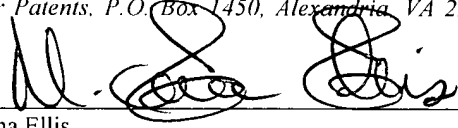


PATENT  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 3621

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 29, 2004.*

  
M. Ena Ellis

Appl No. : 09/692,746 Confirmation No. 7076  
Applicant : Keith David Bussell  
Filed : October 18, 2000  
Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DIGITALLY SIGNING AN  
ADVERTISEMENT AREA NEXT TO A VALUE-BEARING ITEM  
TC/A.U. : 3621  
Examiner : Firmin Backer  
Docket No. : 40624/SAH/S850  
Customer No. : 23363

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**APR 06 2004**

**GROUP 3600**

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Post Office Box 7068  
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068  
March 29, 2004

Commissioner:

In response to the Office action of October 27, 2003,  
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims  
which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.